

of possible traumatism. On examination, however, this was found to be impossible, and the reason for the hemorrhage was evidently in the condition of the child's blood. The case was referred to an ophthalmologist, and the child ultimately recovered with the preservation of the eye. A similar accident to the one reported by the writer is sometimes seen after version in highly contracted pelvis. It is, however, rare in these cases, and should very seldom happen under the use of the forceps.]

A Study of Fœtal Development by Means of the Röntgen Rays.—In the *Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1899, No. 34, BADE gives the results of the examination of ten specimens to determine the length and development of the fœtus at different periods of gestation. The Röntgen rays were used to determine the presence or absence of bone. The period of development of these specimens varied from eight to ten weeks.

The first specimen was but 3 cm. long, and weighed 2 grammes. There was no trace of bony tissue on using the Röntgen rays. The second specimen was 3.4 cm. long, and here faint shadows were obtained of the cranium, the upper and lower jaw, the clavicle, the upper extremities of the humerus, radius, and ulna, the lower extremities of the thighs, and some of the first ribs. In the third and fourth specimens the same portions of the skeleton were found as in the second. This was a case of twin embryos, and in addition traces of the vertebrae could be observed. The fifth was 7.1 cm., and showed less signs of ossification than in the preceding. The sixth was 9 cm. long, and the formation of bone was far advanced, especially in the fingers and skull. Faint traces of the bones of the ears could be seen. The seventh, eighth, and ninth, whose lengths were greater by 1 cm., showed formation of bone in the pelvic bones, and a better development of the shafts of the long bones. The tenth specimen was 14.5 cm. long, and gave shadows of all the skeleton except the third, fourth, and fifth tarsal phalanges, and was also remarkable for the narrowness of the bodies of the vertebrae.

Rupture of the Uterus and Hysterectomy.—At a recent meeting of the Obstetrical Society of Vienna, LUDWIG showed a patient who had recovered from rupture of the uterus, treated by hysterectomy (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, 1899, No. 34). The patient was a multipara, and was in labor, with breech presentation. The physician in charge attempted to extract the child by pulling upon the feet, when the head became separated from the trunk. On admission to the clinic an extensive rent was found in the lower part of the uterus. Abdominal section and hysterectomy were at once performed, the patient making a good recovery.

In the discussion Schauta stated that he had performed a number of these operations, with unsatisfactory results. He ascribed death in these cases to septic infection, and stated that if this were present the patient would surely die, whether operated upon or not. A second danger was hemorrhage, which could usually be controlled.

Chrobak ascribed death in these cases to anæmia following hemorrhage, and not to septic infection. Braun had not seen good results following abdominal section, and had ascribed death in such patients to anæmia and sepsis together. Rapid heart-failure was usually seen. Ludwig regarded

the recovery of the patient as remarkable and most satisfactory, in view of the fact that she was carried a long distance to the hospital and that the intestines were found in the uterus and had undergone considerable compression through uterine contraction.

DERMATOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

AND

MILTON B. HARTZELL, M.D.,

INSTRUCTOR IN DERMATOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Nosological Value of Eosinophilia and the Elimination of Eosinophilous Cells by the Skin.—LEREDDE (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*, 1899, No. 4), at a recent séance of the Société Française de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie, expressed the opinion that the existence of eosinophilia associated with the excretion of eosinophilous cells by the skin—the union of the two being necessary—was proof that pemphigus foliaceus and pemphigus vegetans are forms of one and the same blood disease, the type of which is the dermatosis of Duhring. These affections are only skin diseases secondarily; they are essentially forms of a blood disease due to the reaction of the hæmatopoietic organs, especially of the bone-marrow. This reaction may be produced under the influence of multiple intoxications of heterogenous or endogenous origin, transient or lasting.

The Cutaneous Para-tuberculosis.—J. C. JOHNSTON (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases*, July, 1899) concludes from his studies that there exists a class of cutaneous diseases analogous to the para-syphilodermata, which may be designated para-tuberculoses. They are not in themselves tuberculous, but they develop and flourish on a tuberculous soil. They may be divided into three groups: scrofuloderms, tuberculoderms, and dyschromias. The scrofuloderms are pure pyodermias, by which characteristic they are separated from the tuberculoderms, which are only accidentally pustular. The tuberculoderms include a variety of affections, ranging from erysipelas perstans to lichen scrofulosorum, which are toxæmias. The points upon which the right of a disease to admission to this category rests are as follows: absence of tubercle bacilli, occurrence in scrofulous patients, a pathological anatomy comparable to that recognized for tuberculosis, and, finally, experimental production of the disease by infections of tuberculin.

On Chronic Primal Dermatitis.—E. HEUSS, of Zürich (*Monatshefte f. prakt. Derm.*, July 1, 1899) describes a case of chronic dermatitis due to contact with primula obconica. A characteristic feature of dermatitis due

to this plant is the suddenness of the attack, affecting usually the hands and face, with itching, swelling, redness, vesiculation, and papulation. The poisonous properties of the plant are due to fine hairs in the under surface of the leaves.

Suppurative Perifolliculitis and Frambæiform Vegetations following Eczema.—HUBER (*Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis*, Band xlix., Heft 1) reports the following unusual complication of eczema: In a young girl, aged seventeen years, who had suffered from a severe, universal eczema for four years, an eruption of pea-sized, firm, perifollicular papules occurred on the anterior surface of both thighs and the mons veneris. A similar eruption existed upon the flexor surface of the left elbow. Upon the posterior surface of the thighs were coin to palm-sized, elevated, partly ulcerating, proliferating patches, formed by the confluence of numerous perifollicular lesions, these patches being polycyclic or oval in shape. The elementary lesion was a pustular perifolliculitis; through the coalescence of the pustular lesions and their ulceration frambæiform vegetations arose. When left to themselves the vegetations possessed unlimited powers of increase, but if treated antiseptically they disappeared in a very brief period, leaving no trace. The author regards the complication as due to the invasion of pus-producing organisms in an individual predisposed thereto.

Erythromelalgia and Atrophy of the Skin.—SCHÜTZ (*Dermatologische Zeitschrift*, Band vi., Heft 3) reports a case in which the symptoms of erythromelalgia were combined with atrophy of the skin. The patient was a woman, aged forty-nine years, who had suffered much from malaria, acute articular rheumatism, and nervousness. The erythromelalgia came on gradually, affecting the left arm and hand, an exquisite venous redness gradually developing on these, accompanied by frequent attacks of severe, burning pain, especially after night. The burning was often associated with a dull pain on the inner side of the arm and swelling of the veins of the back of the hand. Besides the local symptoms there were headache, giddiness, buzzing in the head, accompanied at times by hardness of hearing. The general condition of the patient was bad. The skin of the back of the hand was wrinkled and shining, and it could be picked up in large folds. The author supposes a causal relationship between the two affections, the disturbance of nutrition caused by the erythromelalgia leading to disappearance of the tissues of the skin.

The Nature of Erythema Induratum.—THIBIERGE and RAVAUT (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*, 1899, No. 6) conclude, from a study of lesions taken from three cases of this affection, that it should be placed among the cutaneous tuberculozes, alongside of tuberculous gummata, with which it presents the greatest clinical affinities. Although tubercle bacilli were not found in sections of the lesions, the presence of vascular and inflammatory changes with giant-cells were sufficient, in the opinion of the authors, to make probable the tuberculous nature of the malady. In a guinea-pig inoculated with a fragment taken from one of the ulcerating lesions a typical experimental tuberculosis was produced, thus establishing the tuberculous origin of the disease.

PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

W. T. COUNCILMAN, M.D.,

SHATTUCK PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

AND

F. B. MALLORY, M.D.,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

On Refractory Subcutaneous Abscesses Caused by a Fungus Possibly Related to the Sporotricha.—SCHENCK (*Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, December, 1898, No. 93) has isolated and studied a fungus pathogenic for man. During the latter part of August, 1896, the patient, a man, aged thirty-six years, suffering from chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, scratched the index finger of the right hand on a nail. Shortly after this a small abscess formed. When he came under observation, in November, 1896, there was an ulcer, with undermined edges, at the point of injury. The infection had extended up the arm, following the lymph channels, and giving rise to several circumscribed indurations, which were in part broken down and ulcerated. Upon incising these areas a quantity of gelatinous puriform material was found. The fungus was obtained in three cultures from two different foci of the disease—twice in pure culture and once admixed with the staphylococcus epidermidis albus.

The ulcer proved refractory to treatment, the last lesion, at the point of primary infection, persisting for six months.

The cultural characteristics of the organism were similar to those of many fungi and yeasts, but the exact classification could not be determined from the imperfect life-history. It grew well on the ordinary laboratory media. On agar the growth, at first white, became after a time of a dark brown color. Gelatin was slightly liquefied. Cover-glass preparations from agar and bouillon cultures showed two forms: (1) a thread-like branching form, or mycelium, and (2) oval, spore-like forms, or conidia.

The tissue removed for microscopical examination presented the characteristics of a chronic abscess. The sections failed to reveal any micro-organisms.

Experiments upon animals proved that the fungus was pathogenic. It was fatal for white mice. In dogs abscesses formed at the points of inoculation.

Concerning Epithelial Metamorphosis of the Thymus.—LOCHTE (*Centralblatt f. allg. Path. u. path. Anat.*, January 2, 1899, Band x., No. 1) has studied twenty cases of persistent thymus gland in the adult. Two cases were especially mentioned, a male, aged twenty-one years, who died of septic purpura, and a girl, aged eighteen years, dying of acute leukæmia.

In the first case the gland was composed of large epithelioid cells, with broad protoplasmic borders and large round or oval nuclei, lying in an alveolar connective tissue framework which presented few nuclei. In places the epithelioid cells were in close masses and more polyhedral in shape.